

**Amendments to the Claims**

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) A stent comprising: a stent body expandable between an un-deployed orientation and a deployed orientation, the stent body having a longitudinal axis extending between first and second open ends; the stent body having a plurality of adjacent circumferential support structures, the circumferential support structures being spaced-apart along the longitudinal axis; each support structure including longitudinal struts interconnected at apex portions, the longitudinal struts and apex portions defining an undulating pattern, at least some of the apex portions of adjacent circumferential support structures being configured to longitudinally overlap one another when in the un-deployed configuration; a plurality of circumferential connecting struts interconnecting at least some of the adjacent circumferential support structures, the circumferential connecting struts extending between the apex portions that overlap one another.

39. (New) The stent of claim 38 wherein in the deployed orientation, adjacent circumferential support structures are offset such that the apex portions on one side of a support structure are positioned intermediate the apex portions on a facing side of an adjacent support structure.

40. (New) The stent of claim 38 wherein at least some of the circumferential connecting struts have a width greater than a width of the longitudinal struts.

41. (New) The stent of claim 38 wherein the circumferential connecting struts joining first and second adjacent support structures extend in a first direction and the circumferential connecting struts joining second and third support structures extend in a second direction opposite the first direction.

42. (New) The stent of claim 1 wherein some of the longitudinal struts are longer than other longitudinal struts, and wherein the longer longitudinal struts provide the longitudinal overlap at the apex portions.

43. (New) The stent of claim 1 wherein the circumferential connecting struts connecting the apex portions are angled with respect to a circumferential direction.

44. (New) The stent of claim 38 wherein the undulating pattern defines a wavelength, and wherein the circumferential connecting members are at least one half the length of

the wavelength.

45. (New) A stent comprising: a stent body expandable between an un-deployed orientation and a deployed orientation, the stent body having a longitudinal axis extending between first and second open ends; the stent body having a plurality of adjacent circumferential support structures, the circumferential support structures being spaced-apart along the longitudinal axis; each support structure including longitudinal struts interconnected at apex portions, the longitudinal struts and apex portions defining an undulating pattern; and a plurality of circumferential connecting struts interconnecting at least some of the adjacent circumferential support structures, the circumferential connecting struts extending between the apex portions of adjacent circumferential support structures, at least some of the circumferential connecting struts having a width greater than a width of the longitudinal struts.